

The Columbus Commercial

VOL. XXI—No. 90.

COLUMBUS, MISS., SUNDAY MORNING, MARCH 5, 1916.

Semi-Weekly, \$2.00; Weekly, \$1.00 Per Year.

Y.W.C.A. WORKERS NOW IN SESSION

THIRTIETH ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN PROGRESS AT COLLEGE.

FAMOUS SPEAKERS ARE ON PROGRAM

Meeting Began Friday Night, and Session Will Continue Through Today.

Friday evening marked the opening of the thirtieth jubilee conference of the Young Women's Christian Association of the Industrial Institute and College, and the inaugural meeting was a most conspicuous one, having brought several events which were greatly enjoyed both by the visitors and their host.

The conference is one of unusual significance, as it not only celebrates the thirtieth anniversary of the Young Women's Christian Association at the college but marks the close of the fiftieth year of the organization, and in honor of this event that organization has sent some of its most successful workers here to participate in the program. One of the most noted of these workers is Mr. F. P. Turner, general secretary of the Student Volunteer Movement, and others in attendance who enjoy nationwide fame in their chosen field are Miss Oloofah Burner, student secretary from the Y. W. C. A. National Board, and Miss Ina Scherebeck, Y. W. C. A. secretary for the south central states. All three of these workers have had extended experience in the field of religious endeavor among young women, and their presence has proven a great stimulus to the local organization.

The first session of the conference was held in the college chapel at 7 o'clock Friday evening, and an address of welcome by Miss Mary Hennington, president of the local organization, inaugurated the program. Miss Hennington spoke with both force and feeling, having described succinctly the work of the Young Women's Christian Association at the college in the past and having told of its hopes, aims and plans for the future. Her address was followed by the presentation of a charming play, "The Wayside Piper," by students of the college, and a reception for the visitors brought the evening's program to an auspicious close.

Yesterday's program was inaugurated at 7 o'clock with a Morning watch, which was conducted by Miss Burner, and later in the forenoon there was a general meeting, at which various phases of the Y. W. C. A. work were discussed.

At 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon Miss Scherebeck spoke on "The History and Organization of the Y. W. C. A.," and this was followed by an athletic exhibition at the college gymnasium.

The program last night was a most excellent one, having included an interesting address by Miss Burner on "The Y. W. C. A. at Home and Abroad," and a delightful concert by the University of Alabama Glee Club.

A Morning Watch at 7 o'clock, conducted by Miss Scherebeck, will mark the beginning of today's program, and at 11 o'clock there will be an address by Mr. Turner. Vesper services, conducted by Miss Burner, will be held at 4:45 p. m., and another talk by Mr. Turner at 6:45 p. m., will bring the conference to an official close.

Excellent Attractions at the Princess Monday and Tuesday.

The attraction for Monday, March 6, is dainty little Vivian Martin, and a large cast of favorites in the latest offering of the World Film Corporation, "Over Night," a very unusual and pleasing comedy drama in 5 reels. Admission for Monday, 5c and 10c.

The attraction for Tuesday, March 7th, is a Paramount production in 5 reels, featuring the noted actress, Florence Rockwell, and entitled, "He Fell in Love With His Wife." A very unusual story, magnificently staged. Admission for Tuesday is 5c and 10c.

Excellent music by complete Princess orchestra.

Small Fire Yesterday.

An alarm of fire was turned in yesterday morning from the residence of Mr. J. H. Cook, 508 South Seventh street. The blaze, which was a small roof fire, was quickly extinguished, very little damage being done.

VARDAMAN CONTINUES FIGHT AGAINST WILSON

Only Southern Man Opposing President in Defending Rights on High Seas.

According to a recent Washington dispatch to the New Orleans Times-Picayune, Senator Vardaman is the only southern man in either Senate or House who is opposing President Wilson in his plan to defend the rights of Americans traveling on belligerent ships. An excerpt from the dispatch follows:

Senator Vardaman's opinion is that everyone, from President to page, who has any hand in the withdrawing of protection from Americans who insist on traveling on board armed belligerent ships should be impeached. He asserted today that he would vote against a resolution expressing confidence in the President so long as such a vote carries with it a continuance of the responsibility of the United States for its citizens who insist on traveling on board armed belligerent ships.

Representative Harrison, of Mississippi, was about the busiest man on the House side. He is a member of the foreign affairs committee and the rules committee, before which the whole preliminary battle is being fought out. Mr. Harrison is the only member of the House who is on the two committees. For the past week he has been engaged in each committee trying to suppress the desire of certain members of the House to bring out armed ship resolutions. Today he is trying to get the resolution before the House desired by the President.

Mr. Stephens, of Mississippi, expresses the views of a large number of congressmen in the following statement: "The President states in this note to Mr. Pou that the matter in question is clearly within the field of executive initiative. I agree with the statement and am heartily in favor of questions of diplomacy being handled by the President who is vested with full authority. I have no desire to take from him any power which he has in the regard. His diplomatic negotiations have kept us out of the war thus far, and of course we are all anxious for this condition to continue."

"Even though no warning is given American citizens, and without regard to their rights to travel on the high seas, I feel that both wisdom and patriotism dictate that they should not travel on board armed merchantmen, thereby taking the chance of involving our nation in a war that would likely cost the lives of millions of our citizens."

Senator Vardaman was one of several senators who visited the cloak rooms of the House today in an effort to do missionary work in favor of their respective views in regard to the question which is absorbing all the attention on capital hill.

Calf Brings Big Sum.
A four-months old Holstein calf, owned by Mr. Haley Reeves, was sold here yesterday to Mr. Sparkman, of Mobile, Ala., for the sum of \$200.

Attend church today.

T. W. LEWIS, JR., LOCATES HERE TO PRACTICE LAW

SON OF FORMER PASTOR OF FIRST METHODIST CHURCH RETURNS TO COLUMBUS.

Mr. T. W. Lewis, Jr., the talented young son of Rev. T. W. Lewis, who for a number of years was pastor of the First Methodist church here but who is now serving a fashionable church in Memphis, has decided to locate in Columbus, and will engage in the practice of law, being associated with Gen. E. T. Sykes, one of the most prominent members of the local bar.

Mr. Lewis is a graduate of Millsaps College at Jackson, and is a young man possessed of intelligence of an unusually high order. He is earnest, zealous and conscientious, and will devote his entire time and attention to the duties of his profession.

The young barrister spent much of his boyhood in Columbus, and both he and his father have numerous friends here who join the Commercial in extending him a most cordial welcome to the city.

The Civic Improvement League will hold a meeting at the Chamber of Commerce next Friday, March 10, at 3 p. m.

CALL ISSUED FOR COMMITTEE MEET

MUNICIPAL ELECTION EXECUTIVES TO ASSEMBLE TUESDAY NIGHT.

WILL ARRANGE PRIMARY DATE

If Precedence is Followed Contest Will Take Place About April.

A meeting of the Municipal Democratic Executive Committee has been called to convene at the city hall at 7:30 o'clock Tuesday night, at which time a date for holding a primary to nominate officials to serve the city of Columbus during the biennial period beginning January 1, 1917, will be fixed. The nominations of this primary will be ratified at the general election, which will occur on the first Monday in December.

The officials to be nominated are a mayor, six councilmen, four public school trustees and an executive committee consisting of five members. The present executive committee consists of Messrs. E. R. Sherman, W. B. Harrington, T. J. Locke, Jr., P. W. Maer and E. M. Shropshire, whose term of office expires at the close of the present year. This committee was selected at a mass meeting held at the city hall several months ago, and while Mr. Sherman served as chairman of that meeting he was not selected to fill the office permanently. The committee is therefore without an official, but Mr. Locke interviewed a majority of the members Thursday, and they agreed to hold a meeting Tuesday night.

When the committee meets Tuesday night the first matter to be taken up will be the selection of a permanent chairman, and after this has been done the question of fixing a date for the primary will be considered. The selection of a date is discretionary with the committee, but if precedence is followed the contest will occur either late in April or early in May. Besides fixing a date for the primary the committee will also select the judges and clerks to conduct the contest.

Two candidates for mayor, Hon. W. C. Gunter, the incumbent, and Capt. E. S. Donnell, who, for nearly a decade prior to his defeat by Mr. Gunter two years ago, had efficiently served the city as mayor, are already in the field. They are in circulation various rumors concerning the prospective candidates for the other offices which are to be filled, but no announcement has been made and therefore nothing definite can be stated as to whether or not the officials now in office will have opposition.

LOCAL NEGRO EDUCATOR DIES AFTER A SHORT ILLNESS

W. I. MITCHELL SUCCEUMBS TO PNEUMONIA AT HOME ON NORTH SEVENTH AVE.

W. I. Mitchell, who for more than twenty years past had been principle of Union Academy, the local public school for the education of negro children, died at his home, No. 1608 North Seventh avenue, last Friday, his death having resulted from pneumonia and a week's duration.

Mitchell was one of the best known negro educators in East Mississippi, and was held in high esteem. Notwithstanding the fact that he was highly educated and was a recognized leader among Ethiopians he was humble and respectful in his dealings with white people, and all members of the Caucasian race with whom he came in contact had a kindly feeling toward him. Mitchell was about 65 years old, and is survived by a large family.

William Porter Harris, who for a short time prior to the failure of the Penny Savings Bank acted as cashier of that institution, is it is understood, an applicant for the place made vacant by Mitchell's death.

Mr. B. M. Lamb has returned from a visit of several months to relatives at Carrollton, Ala.

Prof. L. G. Painter will be at the home of Judge and Mrs. C. L. Moore during the rest of the college term.

LOCAL PYTHIANS TO BUILD CASTLE

TOMBIGBEE LODGE NAMES COMMITTEE TO SELECT A SITE.

FINE BUILDING TO BE ERECTED

Between \$25,000 and \$30,000 Will Probably Be Amount Expended.

Members of Tombigbee Lodge, No. 12, Knights of Pythias, have decided to erect a castle hall, and have appointed a committee to select a site. For many years past the lodge has occupied rented quarters, but with the passage of time its treasury has grown opulent, and the members now feel that they are in a position to erect and own a building.

It has been decided to erect the new structure well within the business district, and this proviso has made it rather difficult to secure a site, as desirably located property that can be purchased for any purpose whatsoever is hard to find in Columbus.

Several sites have been suggested, among them being the Cady property at the corner of Main and Sixth streets. This property is directly opposite the city hall, and its location makes it most desirable. There is a lively stable on the corner, but next to it is a large unoccupied space, so the lot, in addition to being advantageously located, is sufficiently large to accommodate a commodious building, and would meet in every way the demands of the Pythians. The property, however, is entailed, and there is some doubt as to whether or not the heirs now in possession can give a legal title. It may be possible that they can give a warranty deed, and if they can do this the lot may be finally selected as a site for the proposed structure.

The need for a ground-floor theater in Columbus is generally recognized, and it has been suggested that in making plans for their building the Pythians provide for this need. This suggestion, however, has come from outside sources, and it is understood that it has not as yet been considered by the lodge. No plans have been made for the structure, but a gentleman who is in touch with the situation states that it will probably be three stories in height, and will be not only a credit to the lodge but an ornament to the city.

3,000 LOSE LIVES WHEN FRENCH CRUISER SINKS

MINISTRY OF MARINE MAKES OFFICIAL REPORT ON THE PROVENCE DISASTER.

Paris, March 4.—It was announced at the French ministry of marine Friday that there were nearly 4,000 men on board the French auxiliary cruiser Provence when she was sunk in the Mediterranean on Feb. 26.

It was stated that on board the Provence were the staff of the Third Colonial Infantry regiment, the Third Battalion, the second company of the First Battalion, the second machine gun company and one extra company, in all nearly 4,000 men.

As the ministry of marine announced on Feb. 29 that the number of survivors of the Provence disaster was estimated at 870 it is indicated by the foregoing dispatch that upward of 3,130 lives were lost.

The loss of more than 3,000 lives in the sinking of the French auxiliary cruiser Provence is the greatest ocean disaster of modern times. Up to the present the largest number of lives ever lost in one wreck was when the White Star liner, Titanic, struck an iceberg off the New Foundland banks on April 14, 1912, and sank with a death loss of 1,595. The rescued numbered 743.

The French ministry of marine had previously issued no statement as to the number of the persons on the Provence when she went down. The vessel, however, when in the trans-Atlantic service could carry 1,960 persons, including the crew, and it has been presumed that, as she was transporting troops between ports not far apart, she was carrying a number of men larger than her normal capacity.

NATIVE COLUMBIAN ON ALABAMA BENCH

EVANS SUCCEEDS THOMAS AS JUDGE OF APPEALS LATE COURT.

NEPHEW OF MRS. W. C. RICHARDS

New Judge is Resident of Birmingham and Was Indorsed By Bar of That City.

An Associated Press dispatch sent out last Thursday announced the appointment of Hon. Richard V. Evans, of Birmingham, to succeed Judge E. Perry Thomas, of Eufaula, as a member of the Alabama Court of Appeals. The new appointee is a native of this city, being a son of the late Hon. George A. Evans, who for many years was a prominent member of the local bar but who spent the latter part of his life practicing law in the Magic City. He is a nephew of Mrs. W. C. Richards and has numerous other further removed relatives and a host of friends in Columbus who received news of his appointment with much gratification.

Judge Evans has for a number of years past been practicing law in Birmingham, and has been successful not only in his profession but as a politician, having managed the campaign in Jefferson county for Hon. Charles Henderson, who was last year elected governor of Alabama. He stands high among his fellow practitioners, and as an applicant for the judgeship had the unanimous endorsement of the Birmingham bar.

The press dispatch announcing the appointment of Judge Evans, which was sent out from Montgomery, follows: "Richard V. Evans, Birmingham attorney, will succeed E. Perry Thomas of Eufaula as a member of the Alabama Court of Appeals April 1. Gov. Henderson announced the appointment of Mr. Evans Tuesday afternoon for the unexpired term, which will continue nine months. At the end of nine months Mr. Evans will retire in favor of the person who is nominated by the Democratic party in the primary May 9.

"Judge Thomas presented his resignation to Gov. Henderson Monday and will become assistant district attorney of the Louisville and Nashville Railway April 1, the date his resignation is effective. Gov. Henderson did not give serious consideration to any name for Judge Thomas' successor other than Mr. Evans. Mr. Evans had the endorsement of many attorneys of the Birmingham bar and other persons of Jefferson county. He was manager of Gov. Henderson's campaign in Jefferson county."

HAPPENINGS OF INTEREST GATHERED HERE AND THERE

GIST OF NEWS FROM OVER THE COUNTRY GIVEN IN A BRIEF FORM.

Easter Sunday comes this year April 23. It will not occur again so late until 1943, when the date is April 25. The 25th of April is the last day on which Easter can come and March 22nd is the earliest. During the present century it will not fall on March 22.

From Bombay comes the report that the Portuguese flag has been hoisted on all German steamers lying at Mormogoa. The Germans on board were interned at Panjam, capital of the Portuguese province in Goa in India. This action was taken in the face of a German ultimatum sent to the Lisbon government Tuesday.

Mexican consular advices from Salina Cruz, Oaxaca report the capture of a group of Diaz adherents who had assembled at Puerto Angel, presumably to await the arrival of Gen. Felix Diaz. According to the dispatch it was reported in Salina Cruz that Diaz sailed from San Francisco February 26.

Jean Mounet-Sully, the celebrated French tragedian, and dean of the Comedie Francaise, is dead in Paris at the age of 75.

Two hundred and twenty hospital trains have arrived at Aix-la-Chapelle with wounded from the fight at Verdun, according to reports originating from Dutch sources.

BAPTISTS TO CELEBRATE ANNIVERSARY OF PASTOR

Will Render Appropriate Program in Honor of Dr. Vipperman.

Dr. J. L. Vipperman, who is pastor of the First Baptist church in this city, today completes the second year of his incumbency here, and an appropriate anniversary program will be rendered at the 11 o'clock service this morning.

During his stay in this city Dr. Vipperman has done much towards the upbuilding of the First Baptist church. He is a fine scholar and an able preacher, and the members of his church are proud that they have him as their pastor.

At the anniversary services this morning the following program will be rendered:

Song—"Holy, Holy, Holy."

Prayer by pastor.

Song—"All Hail the Power of Jesus Name."

Scripture reading by pastor.

Song by Sunday school.

Solo (Selected) Miss Anna Terrell Hamilton.

Repeating 23 Psalm by Sunday school.

Song by Philathea class.

Talk by Hon. B. A. Lincoln, representing the Baraca class.

Tris—Misses Zaida Musselwhite, Cora Cook and Ellie Williams.

Cornet Solo—Mr. L. Pullo.

Anthem by Choir—Selected.

Duet—Miss Lola Jarvis and Mr. James Egger.

Song by student body of I. I. and C.

Song by choir and congregation—"When the Roll is Called."

Three Architects Here.

Three architects from nearby cities, Messrs. P. J. Krouse, of Meridian, R. H. Hunt, of Chattanooga, and C. L. Austin, of Jackson, Miss., have been in Columbus during the past few days collecting data with a view of submitting plans for the new high school building which is to be erected here.

The bonds from which money for the erection of the proposed structure is to be derived have not yet been sold, and it will probably be some little time before the city council is ready to consider plans, but the visiting architects were extended every possible courtesy while here and were given all the information which under the existing conditions, could be furnished them.

Will Inspect Riflemen.

Lieut. R. R. Pickering, of Jackson, U. S. inspector for Mississippi, will be in Columbus next Wednesday evening and will make the annual Federal inspection of the Columbus Riflemen. Maj. Wm. R. Grady, of Meridian, will accompany Lieut. Pickering to the city and will make a physical examination of the local riflemen. Lieut. Pickering and Maj. Grady will go to Caledon's Thursday.

Attend church today.

Mr. Earl Dunn, of Kenton, Ohio, arrived in the city last night and will in the future be drummer in the Princess Theatre orchestra.

COLLEGE APPROPRIATION BILL PASSES THE SENATE

APPROPRIATIONS PROVIDING FOR FARM AND HOSPITAL ANNEX ELIMINATED.

The Mississippi Senate last Thursday passed a bill providing for the support and maintenance of the Industrial Institute and College in this city during the ensuing biennial period and for needed improvements at the institution.

The bill provides an annual appropriation of approximately \$67,500 for the support of the institution, \$15,000 for a teachers' home and \$4,000 for two elevators. Appropriations for a college farm and for an annex to the hospital, which were requested by President Whitfield, were eliminated.

President Whitfield was present when the bill came up before the Senate, and will go to Jackson next week to urge the passage of the measure when it comes up for consideration in the House.

Mr. C. M. Davis, of Greenville, arrived in Columbus last week, and will in the future make this city his home. He will be associated in the insurance business with Mr. Jesse P. Woodward.

PLANS OF BILBO MAY BE SMASHED

SENATE SAID TO BE UNALTERABLY OPPOSED TO CONVENTION.

A MEMBER POLLS HIS COLLEAGUES

Vote, as Announced, Stood 25 to 17 Against the Governor's Pet Scheme.

Jackson, Miss., March 4.—Friday was rather a desultory day in the Mississippi Legislature halls, the majority of the lawmakers apparently not having gotten over the effects of the Grenada jaunt and the somewhat rough-house incidents that characterized the somewhat notable highway convention in the North Mississippi capital.

The outstanding feature of the day was a poll made of the Senate by one of its most careful members, which indicates, with apparent final and conclusive force, that it will be impossible to get a state constitutional convention measure through this session.

The poll shows that out of the 45 Senate members, 28 are directly and unalterably pledged against the convention. The significance of this showing is that it indicates that the strongest plank in the platform of Gov. Bilbo seems liable to fail him in that branch of the Legislature in which he is presumed to have the strongest backing.

However, many of these same Senators are in favor of the government's forward movement bond issue budget, and other matters which he has advocated of a decidedly constructive nature.

The Johnson-Yawn convention bill proposes an assembly of 100 members with one delegate from each county and 20 from the state at large or from the supreme court districts. Notwithstanding this uncertainty, Senator Yawn will make an early effort to get the bill before the Senate as a special order.

The lower House during the forenoon considered bills favorably reported from the committee on education, and State Superintendent of Education W. H. Smith, by request, addressed the body in support of measures to increase the force in his office, by the addition of an assistant and a stenographer. Superintendent Smith said there was need for additional help because of the growth of the educational system. The bill providing for the increase was passed.

The House also heard Mr. Smith advocate the passage of the bill adding 5 to the 12 subjects now required to teachers applying for first grade license, and it was passed. The bill providing that joint agricultural high schools receive a larger proportion of the agricultural high school appropriation than heretofore, was passed.

The Senate by a vote of 18 to 13 tabled the motion to reconsider the vote which passed the anti-whiskey advertising bill. The bill now goes back to the House for concurrence in a Senate amendment.

Will Give Pretty Play.

One of the best plays ever presented by local talent will be seen at the Columbus Theatre next Tuesday evening, beginning at 8:15 o'clock, when "Arabian Nights" will be the attraction. The proceeds will go to the Lesque Cha and the Chona Camp Fire Girls.

Those who are to take part in the play have been well coached by Mrs. Will Frazee. The cast includes besides Mrs. Frazee, Misses Mary Lou Frazee, Ida Frances Oliver and Corinne Richards, and Messrs. Hadden Brooks, R. M. Young, T. O. Burris, Jr., and J. C. Moss.

Only a small price of admission will be charged.

Discus Road Improvements.

Citizens of Westport district, northwest of Columbus, held a meeting at the Chamber of Commerce yesterday morning and ways and means of getting good roads were discussed. Instead of issuing bonds for \$20,000 for road work at the present time, the gentlemen who attended the meeting thought best to make a special effort and get the citizens of their district to pull together and improve the roads themselves as much as possible. The session was presided over by Mr. C. F. Sherrod.

Mr. Louis Rosenzweig has returned from New York.